

## **AGENDA ITEM IV B**

### **PROPOSED LETTER OF INTENT**

#### **Southeastern Louisiana University**

#### **Master of Science in Integrated Science and Technology**

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Southeastern Louisiana University projects the development of a proposal for a new Master of Science program in Integrated Science and Technology (CIP Code 309999).

The Integrated Science and Technology (ISAT) graduate program is an interdisciplinary program that emphasizes applications of chemistry, computer science, industrial technology, mathematics, and physics in a career enhancement degree. The ISAT degree will be appropriate for individuals with computer science or technology degrees who are interested in expanding their knowledge of the applications of mathematics and science to their own areas of expertise. It would enable them to assume leadership roles in the expanding technical aspects of area business and industries. The ISAT degree would be appropriate for individuals with mathematics or science degrees who want to apply their mathematics or science background in business and industry. Additionally, this degree will open doors to entry-level positions in the petrochemical, high tech manufacturing and telecommunications industries.

### **STAFF ANALYSIS**

#### **Appropriateness with Institutional Role, Scope, and Mission**

This projected program appears to be appropriate to the role, scope, and mission of Southeastern Louisiana University as stated in the *1994 Master Plan for Higher Education*.

#### **Potential for Unnecessary Program Duplication**

No state university currently offers this projected degree program; hence, program duplication is not a relevant issue.

#### **Consistency with the Mandates of the Desegregation Settlement Agreement**

The Desegregation Settlement Agreement does not provide for the establishment of this or any similar degree program at any predominantly black higher education institution in the state.

#### **Prospects for Funding Through Non-State Resources**

*Part H — Costs of Section 2.04.01 Letters of Intent for Projected New Academic Programs* of the Academic Affairs' Policies and Procedures states that an appropriate financial rationale must be part of any letter of intent submitted to the Board of Regents. The institution provided the following justification for expenditures of \$275,884 for the first five years of program operation:

1. The program will be funded entirely through non-State appropriated monies. Given the university's current tuition structure and average enrollment in graduate courses, we believe new student fees will be sufficient to cover the direct cost of the program; and
2. The program will be funded (if necessary) by concomitant reduction/reallocation in expenditures, therefore, requiring no additional State funds.

Given that this justification is general, it is difficult for the staff to determine if the funding rationale is consistent with Academic Affairs' Policies and Procedures.

### **STAFF SUMMARY**

Based on the information provided, it appears that the Letter of Intent for the projected Master of Science program in Integrated Science and Technology (ISAT) may meet requirements of *Section 2.04.01 — Letters of Intent for Projected New Academic Programs* of the Academic Affairs' Policies and Procedures; however, any full program proposal forthcoming from the University as a result of this Letter of Intent will give special attention and greater detail to describe the various sources of funding for the proposed program. The staff notes that any full proposal developed as a result of this Letter of Intent, if approved, will be closely reviewed by the staff and external consultants. This review will place particular emphasis upon the issues regarding funding sources and all other issues related to the prospective *quality* and *need* for the proposed program. Therefore, the staff recommends the following:

### **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

***The staff recommends that the Board of Regents grant approval of the Letter of Intent for the projected Master of Science program in Integrated Science and Technology (ISAT) at Southeastern Louisiana University (CIP Code 309999) with the stipulation that any full program proposal forthcoming from the University as a result of this Letter of Intent provide detailed information on funding sources for the proposed program.***